

B O R O U G H    O F    P O R T    T A L B O T .

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ANNUAL    REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1946

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1.

SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1946 (Deals with General Health  
and Sanitation Matters)

Councillor E.L.Hare (Chairman)	Councillor J. Noonan
" P.A.Wiseman	" H.A.Gunn
" Major Ll. David	" T. Mainwaring
Alderman G. Harris	" D.H.Davies
Councillor J.J.Edwards	" R. Evans
" W. Potts	" J.T.Mainwa ring

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MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1946.

Councillor J. Perkins (Mayor)	Councillor H.H.Macey
" J.H.Jones	" W. Potts
" T. Mainwaring	and the following co-opted ladies:-
" E.D.Mort	Mrs. A. Edwards
" J. Noonan	Mrs. J. Treharne
" Mrs. L.G.Edwards	Mrs. C. King
" H.A.Gunn	Mrs. E. B. Newman
" Major Ll. David	Mrs. G. Harris
Alderman G. Harris	Mrs. E. Hopkins
Councillor H. Griffiths	Mrs. E. Wellington

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GROESWEN HOSPITAL HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE, 1946.

Alderman G. Harris (Chairman)	Councillor J.T.Mainwaring
Councillor T. Mainwaring	" P.A.Wiseman
" W. Potts	" J. Noonan
" Major Ll. David	" E.L.Hare.
" J.J.Edwards	

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING 1946.

Medical Officer of Health -

J. ALUN EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors -

G.A.MORGAN, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(C.R.S.I. & C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector, and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector. C.I.H. and C.R.S.I. School Hygiene and Physiology. General Hygiene Diploma, Institute of Hygiene. Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales. Fellow Royal Sanitary Institute. Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Association.)

L.J.CARTER, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector, and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

S. TAYLOR, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector. Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales).

I.G.HEYCOCK, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector. Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales).

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Matron of Fever Hospital -

MISS G. E. BUDD, S.R.N., C.M.B., R.F.N.

Health Visitors -

MISS E. DAVIES, S.R.N., C.M.B.

MISS G. A. JENKINS, S.R.N., C.M.B., R.F.N., H.V. Certificate.

MISS E. M. MORGAN, S.R.N., C.M.B., R.F.N., H.V. Certificate.

Clerks -

Mrs. J. HORSHAM, Miss ENID CUSS, Miss IRIS JENKINS.

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BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Port Talbot Corporation.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Nicholas and Gentlemen,

Dr. J. Alun Evans, the Medical Officer of Health of this borough during 1946, has asked me to supervise the preparation of the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Port Talbot for the year 1946. He has kindly scrutinised the completed report.

Mr. G. A. Morgan, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, has provided details of the housing, factory and food inspections. Mr. John Luker, the Senior Clerk and Administrative Officer, has been responsible for the compilation of the statistics.

There were no outbreaks of infectious diseases during the year. The death and infant mortality rates were comparatively low and the birth rate was high.

There is, however, no shortage of public health problems in the borough. The following require solution: the provision of adequate and satisfactory housing for the inhabitants, the discontinuance of the occupation of condemned houses, the elimination of the potentially contaminated and unpurified water supplies and the possible augmentation of the existing main supplies and the installation of filtration plants, diminution of the present atmospheric pollution by the chimneys of industrial plants, provision of pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk supplies throughout the borough, drainage of the low lying land to the west of the town, the provision of a modern abattoir, the provision of an adequate ambulance service and the provision of maternity accommodation. It is appreciated that efforts are being made to solve certain of these problems.

The number of tuberculosis cases is a cause of great concern. There is no short term solution. The shortage of sanatoria beds and difficult housing conditions are aggravating factors.

Dr. Evans wishes to thank the staffs of the Public Health Department and the Groeswen Isolation Hospital for their efforts during the year.

your obedient servant,

D.J.DAVIES,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

Port Talbot is one of the chief industrial towns of South Wales. Future industrial developments will enhance its importance. The main industries are steel and tin plate production. In the hinterland there are several coal mines.

The area of the borough is estimated to be 25,648 acres, including the foreshore.

The majority of the population lives on the narrow coastal plain. The mountains provide a degree of shelter from northerly and easterly winds. The prevailing winds are westerly and south westerly.

The rainfall during 1946 was relatively heavy. The wettest months were September and November and the driest months were March and April. The summer months had much rain and little sunshine. The following table shows the annual rainfall in inches since 1936:-

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
47.64	41.56	39.2	38	38.14	34.88	43.25	49.03	44.68	45.38	40.62

The drainage of the low lying land to west, and to a less extent the east, of the town of Port Talbot is unsatisfactory. Throughout the winter and part of the summer there is standing water in these areas with a resulting possible detrimental effect on the health of the inhabitants of adjacent houses.

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the borough in 1946 was 9,786. At the time of the 1921 census, the number was 7,197 houses which accommodated 8,458 families.

The assessable value of the borough for the year ending March 31st, 1946 was :-

For General Rate Purposes:	£179,195.
A Penny Rate Produced:	£689. 3s. 1d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Detailed statistical tables are given at the end of the report. In this section, a general explanatory review of the statistics is given.

### 1. POPULATION.

The population of the borough was estimated by the Registrar General to be 40,000 for the mid-year 1946 as compared with 38,440 for the previous year.



2. BIRTHS.

There were 770 live births, 397 males and 373 females, during the year. There were unfortunately 32 stillbirths. This latter loss of life is very disappointing. One of the main objects of modern ante-natal and obstetric work is to reduce the number of still births. 4.2% of all live births were illegitimate. The birth of an illegitimate child is still a social tragedy. This public health department always endeavours to help in the provision of a satisfactory home and adequate care for such children.

As expected, with the resumption of married life by many war separated couples, the birth rate has been high.

There was a big demand for institutional maternity accommodation which was mainly satisfied by the West Glamorgan Hospital and the Pentyla Private Nursing Home.

Number of births at home in the borough	----	400
" " " in institutions in borough	--	100
" " " " outside "	--	270
Number of births (Port Talbot Cases) at West Glamorgan Hospital	--	248
Number of births (Port Talbot cases) at Pentyla Private Nursing Home	--	99

3. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during the year 1946 was 477, comprising 267 males and 210 females. The death rate per thousand of the population was 11.9 which compares with previous years as follows:-

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
11.9	12.05	11.9	12.9	11.5	10.6	12.86	12.02	12.8	12.3.	11.07

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1946 was 11.5.

Heart disease and cancer were the commonest causes of death. Medical science has not solved the preventive problem of either disease. Tuberculosis also took a heavy toll especially of young adults. Other infectious diseases were responsible for few deaths: whooping cough for three deaths, diphtheria for four deaths.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

33 infants, under one year of age, died during the year. This figure consisted of twenty three males and ten females. The infant mortality rate - number of deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births - was 43. The whole of England and Wales experienced a similar rate.

Comparisons of previous rates in the borough are as follows:-

1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936.
43	63	43	59	42	53	78	87	67	56	42

## 5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was only one death. The patient died, at the West Glamorgan Hospital, of subarachnoid haemorrhage associated with pre-eclamptic toxæmia and twin pregnancy.

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## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

### HOSPITALS.

1. **MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PATIENTS:** The Port Talbot and District General Hospital, with 85 beds and a full medical staff of specialists, the local practitioners and a house surgeon, dealt with 1615 in-patients during 1946. This voluntary hospital, with its ancillary out-patients departments renders a good service to the inhabitants of the borough. The local doctors, guided in difficult cases by specialists, are able to treat their own patients at the hospital. This arrangement ensures continuity of treatment for the patient and adds to the clinical experience and interest of the doctor. The hospital has a children's ward.

The hospital is mainly financed by the contributions of the employees of works and mines in the borough and adjacent districts.

The West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, a fully equipped county hospital of 344 beds, also provides in-patient and out-patient treatment for citizens of the borough.

2. **MATERNITY PATIENTS:** Port Talbot has, unfortunately, no maternity hospital. Maternity patients from this borough are admitted to the West Glamorgan Hospital, Neath, the Mid Glamorgan Hospital at Bridgend and the Pentyla Private Nursing Home at Port Talbot.

The difficult housing conditions have in part created a big demand for hospital confinements. The new Maternity Wing at the West Glamorgan Hospital will help to satisfy the demand.

3. **INFECTIOUS PATIENTS:** The Borough Isolation Hospital was able during 1946 to admit all such patients who required hospital treatment. This hospital has 44 beds. It has three wards - diphtheria, scarlet fever and a cubicle block. The hospital requires electric lighting and power and a small operating theatre. It also treats patients from Glyncofwrwg Urban District.

Puerperal pyrexia and septic abortion cases are admitted to this hospital.

The admissions during 1946 and previous years are listed in Table V at the end of the report.



4. TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS: The Welsh National Memorial Association arrange the treatment of these patients. Owing to a shortage of nursing and domestic staffs at the sanatoria, there were unfortunately delays in admitting patients. So far, no real solution of this problem has been realised.

#### CLINICS.

1. ANTENATAL, BIRTH CONTROL AND INFANT WELFARE CLINICS: These are described in the Maternity and Child Welfare section of the report.

2. SCHOOL CLINICS: Minor ailment, refraction and orthopaedic clinics for schoolchildren are held and organised in the borough by the Glamorgan County Council.

3. TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC: The nearest clinic is at Neath. The responsible association has not as yet re-instituted such a clinic in this borough.

4. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC: This clinic, organised by the Glamorgan County Council, is situated near the Port Talbot Railway Station.

In addition to the above clinics, the borough needs access to Mental Diseases, Child Guidance and Sterility Clinics.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All chemical and bacteriological examinations, required by the Public Health Department, are undertaken at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

The Public Analyst, under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, was D. Evans Jones, Esq.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

##### ANTENATAL SUPERVISION.

Routine medical examinations during pregnancy enable disorders to be detected and treated at an early stage. Many deaths of mothers in childbirth and still births are thus prevented. During the year, fortnightly and monthly antenatal clinics were held at the Taibach Health Centre and Cwmavon Clinic respectively. Dr. Sybil Morgan was in medical charge of these clinics. During the year there were 656 antenatal clinic attendances. Many women received the necessary antenatal examinations at the West Glamorgan Hospital.

During their home visits, the health visitors encouraged expectant mothers to attend for the appropriate medical supervision.

HOME HELPS SERVICE.

This has not been provided.

INFANT WELFARE.

1. HEALTH VISITING: The health visitors made routine visits to the homes of all infants and pre-school age children. They gave advice to the mothers and in unsatisfactory cases, made regular re-visits. Special attention was paid to premature and illegitimate infants.

The following table gives details of the health visiting work:-

	<u>First visits</u>	<u>Re-Visits Under 1 year</u>	<u>Re-Visits 1 - 5</u>
1936	710	1,747	4,168
1937	671	1,254	4,773
1938	688	2,121	4,189
1939	648	1,697	3,746
1940	598	2,195	3,866
1941	674	1,827	3,280
1942	686	1,462	2,139
1943	610	1,597	2,139
1944	678	1,051	1,206
1945	718	1,715	1,507
1946	818	1,783	2,606

2. INFANT WELFARE CLINICS: These were held weekly at Taibach, fortnightly at Sandfields, Zion Chapel, Aberavon, and Cwmavon and monthly at Bryn. At these clinics, babies are weighed, advice is given to mothers either by the health visitor or the medical officer, dried milk is sold, vitamin supplements provided and sold, and diphtheria immunisations performed. Preschool age children as well as infants attend the clinics.

The following are records of attendances at these infant clinics:-

TAIBACH CLINIC : Total number of attendances: 3062.

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
61	56	71	51	85	67	71	77	81	76	77
Average Attending.										

ZION CHAPEL CLINIC : Total number of attendances: 1031.

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939	1938.	1937.	1936.
40	25	25	24	28	27	18	51	77	83	83

Average Attending.

SANDFIELDS CLINIC : Total number of attendances: 1147.

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
48	41	45	47	58	50	54	64

Average Attending.

CWMAVON CLINIC : Total number of attendances: 1423

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
55	41	46	47	56	41	45	48	52	44	39

Average Attending.

BRYN CLINIC : Total number of attendances: 146

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
12	9	5	5	16	14	16	10	11	13	12

Average Attending.

3. DENTAL TREATMENT: This was provided for expectant and nursing mothers and preschool age children by arrangement with the Glamorgan County Council.

4. ORTHOPAEDIC AND OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT: Such treatment was provided for preschool age children by arrangement with the Glamorgan County Council.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

741 children were immunised during 1946 as compared with 871 in 1945. Alum precipitated diphtheria toxoid was the immunising agent. The general practitioners were provided with the toxoid and were paid 2/- for each injection. Despite propaganda, the immunisation rate remains too low. Booster injections to children aged 5, who were previously immunised in infancy, have been commenced.

#### HOUSING.

There was during 1946 much overcrowding in the borough. Two hundred and nineteen houses, condemned prior to the war, remained occupied. The need for new houses was thus urgent. The following particulars have been supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector:-

Total number of houses built during 1946	-	Temporary	93)	109.
		Permanent	16)	

With state assistance under the Housing Acts:-

- (1) By local authority - 109.
- (ii) By other bodies or persons - 0.

## 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	704
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2973
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	0
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	0
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	602

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 287.

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

## A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices;	
(a)	By Owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	0

## B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	186
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By Owners	124
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

## C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition	0



## D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

## 4. Housing Act, 1936. - Part IV. - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	146
(ii) Number of families therein	213
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein new	1199
(b) Number of/cases of overcrowding reported during the year	111
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	118
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	474
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

WATER SUPPLIES.

A detailed special report on the borough water supplies has been prepared and submitted on the 16th April, 1947. The following details are abstracted from this report:-

1. The borough has seventeen water supplies, fourteen public and three private. Some of the supplies are only used intermittently as auxiliary sources. The distribution systems of the main supplies are complex and interconnected. The necessary constant hygienic supervision of the borough water supplies is very difficult, perhaps impossible, owing to their number and diversity.

2. During 1946, an adequate mains supply was maintained throughout the year. Routine systematic sampling of all supplies was not undertaken. The chief supplies were, however, regularly submitted for bacteriological analysis. With few exceptions the analyses were satisfactory. With the exception of the supply to the mining village of Bryn, all the chief supplies are chlorinated. None of the supplies are filtered.

3. The Tydraw Hill private supply, with a coal level as the source, was closed during the year. Repeated samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

4. From a medical aspect, the existing water supplies are unsatisfactory. They are all liable to contamination and the means of purification are either absent or inadequate.



Two solutions appear to be possible:-

(i) To modify the existing water works by elimination of the smaller supplies, the augmentation of the present larger supplies, the increase of the existing reservoir storage capacities and the installation of large filtration plants.

(ii) A completely new water undertaking - by agreement with an existing water board or otherwise.

5. The majority of the supplies are upland surface water. No records of the plumbo-solvency are available.

#### HYGIENE OF FACTORIES.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has supplied the following details:-

Number of Factory inspections	.....	169
Number of written notices	.....	16

#### Defects Found in Factories

Lack of cleanliness	.....	7
Inadequate drainage of floors	.....	1
Other nuisances	.....	11
Inadequate sanitary conveniences	.....	3
Defective sanitary conveniences	.....	4
Lack of Separate sanitary conveniences for the sexes	.....	2

Twenty five of these defects were remedied, the remaining three were referred to H. M. Inspector of Factories.

#### HYGIENE OF FOOD.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has supplied the following details:-

#### 1. MEAT INSPECTION AT PORT TALBOT ABATTOIR FOR THE YEAR 1946.

	Cattle, Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed	1,639	616	5337	13334	52.
Number inspected	1,639	616	5337	13334	52.
All diseases except tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	6	8	17	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	479	58	13	2422	4

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	29.3%	10.4%	.4%	18.3%	7.7%
Tuberculosis only - Whole carcasses condemned .....	6	9	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned .....	142	54	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	9.03%	10.2%	-	-	1.9%

## 2. MILK.

The following measures were taken to safeguard the borough milk supplies:-

- (i) 1245 routine visits by sanitary inspectors to farms and dairies.
- (ii) 1007 samples taken for examination by the Resazurin Test.
- (iii) A number of samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. The following results were obtained.

Number of samples of ungraded milk .....	45
Number of samples of ungraded milk found to be unsatisfactory .....	17
Number of samples of pasteurised milk .....	74
Number of samples of pasteurised milk found to be unsatisfactory .....	6
Number of samples of ungraded milk examined for tubercle bacilli .....	29
Number of samples found to contain tubercle bacilli ...	1 (The infected animal was detected and slaughtered).

The sale of ungraded milk in the borough is a cause for concern.

- (iv) 115 samples of milk were submitted for chemical analysis. Four were found to be not genuine.

## 3. OTHER FOODS.

47 samples of various foods were submitted to the Public Analyst at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff. 5 samples were found to be not genuine - three contained meal mites and two samples of sultanas contained excess sulphur dioxide.

The Ministry of Food must be complimented on its policy relating to food substitutes and the labelling of pre-packed foods. A series of relevant orders has prevented the sale of worthless food substitutes with misleading labels.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no epidemic or undue prevalence of infectious disease during the year.

The following table shows the number and distribution of infectious diseases in the borough during 1946 and previous years.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria (Proved)	Erysip- elas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Tuberculosis Pulm- onary	Non- Pulm.	Ente- ric Fever.
Margam West.	10	9.	-	-	-	1	10	1	-
Margam Central	6	5	-	1	1	1	12	3	-
Margam North	2	2	-	-	-	1	3	2	-
Aberavon South	20	28	1	-	-	3	18	3	1
Aberavon North	18	9	1	2	-	-	13	6	-
Cwm- avon	6	2	-	-	-	-	5	3	-
<b>TOTALS</b>									
1946	62	55	2	3	1	6	61	18	1
1945	104	86	4	3	2	4	93	13	-
1944	137	201	3	4	1	1	99	7	-
1943	94	154	3	11	-	-	78	22	-
1942	54	46	9	14	3	1	71	20	-
1941	40	64	11	26	-	-	66	28	-
1940	52	84	11	38	3	4	58	18	-
1939	59	143	9	2	4	5	53	14	-
1938	299	71	9	1	1	7	53	15	-
1937	188	22	4	-	1	2	52	15	2
1936	175	27	10	-	-	2	52	10	-

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 93 suspected cases. They were removed to hospital, and after appropriate investigations, 55 were found to be suffering from the disease. Aberavon South Ward had the highest incidence. With increased immunisation of children, it is hoped that diphtheria will become less prevalent.

Four children died of the disease during the year: one child was aged 1 year, one 3 years, one 6 and the other 7 years. None of the children had been immunised.

SCARLET FEVER.

62 cases occurred in the borough; 52 were removed to hospital. All cases were relatively mild. There were no deaths. The disease was most prevalent in the Aberavon South Ward. This is, of course, the most crowded area of the borough.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Six cases were notified. All were mild.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

On November 20th, 1946, a married woman, resident at Port Talbot, was admitted to the Isolation Hospital as a suspected case of typhoid fever. She had been ill for seven days prior to admission. Her blood showed a positive agglutination to *B. typhosus* ('H' 1 in 250); this later rose to 1 in 500. She made an uninterrupted recovery. Her husband showed a positive Vi agglutination (1 in 80). He was admitted to hospital as a possible typhoid carrier. This condition was, however, not confirmed.

The source of the infection in the former case was not discovered despite thorough investigation.

During the year three typhoid patients from Aberystwyth and two from Clydach were treated at the Isolation Hospital. All made a satisfactory recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This is one of the most serious public health problems. At the end of 1946 there were 740 tuberculous patients in this borough.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	259	94
Females	282	105

During the year 79 notifications of all forms of tuberculosis were received as follows:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	30	9
Females	31	9

57 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases were admitted to sanatoria, chiefly Cymla Hospital. In 1946, only ten patients were reported to be cured.

The distribution of the tuberculosis notifications is as follows:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Margam West Ward	10	1
Margam Central Ward	12	3
Margam North Ward	3	2
Aberavon South Ward	18	3
Aberavon North Ward	13	2
Cwmavon Ward	5	3
	<hr/> 61	<hr/> 18



Particulars of the new cases during 1946 and their ages are contained in Table IV at the end of the report.

There were thirty four deaths due to tuberculosis during the year.

On the receipt of a notification of a case of Tuberculosis, a health visitor pays a visit to the house, gives the appropriate advice on hygienic precautions necessary to prevent spread of the disease and advises all contacts to attend the tuberculosis clinic for examination. Any sanitary defects in the house are reported to the appropriate sanitary inspector.

#### Disinfection.

On the removal of a patient, with an infectious disease, to hospital, terminal disinfection (using formaldehyde vapour) of the room was practised. The blankets and clothing of the patient were subjected to pressure steam disinfection.

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TABLE 1

Summary of Statistics of the Borough after Correction for Inward and Outward Transfers as furnished by the Registrar General.

Live Births:-	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	747	386	361
Illegitimate	23	11	12
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	— 19.3		

Still-births:-	Total	Males	Females.
Legitimate	32	20	12
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births	— 39.9		

Deaths:-	Total	Males	Females
	477	267	210
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	— 11.9		

Deaths from puerperal Causes:-

There was one death from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	5



TABLE 1 (Continued)

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	67.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	3.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		2.

TABLE 11.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 census	London Adm. County	BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.
Rates per 1,000 civilian population:-					
Live Births	19.1	22.2	21.3	21.5	19.3
Still Births	0.53	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.8
<u>Deaths</u>					
All causes	11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.08
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.10
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-					
Deaths under 1 Year of Age	43	46	37	41	43
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	2.6

TABLE 11 (Continued)

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns Including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census	London Ad. County	BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-					
Notifications:-					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.025
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.075
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.55
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	0.6
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	1.37
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	0.27
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.00

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-

(a) Notifications:-

Puerperal Fever	) 8.50	10.35	7.63	( 1.62	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	)			( 9.68-x-	7.4
-x- Including Puerperal Fever.					

(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:-

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	No. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

Abortion:- Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales:-

No. 140 With Sepsis

No. 141 Without Sepsis

11.

5.

TABLE 111.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Treated-		Vision	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.	Impoverd.	
1.	0	1	0	0

TABLE 1v.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1946:-

	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 Year.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Over 1 Year and under 5 Years.	0.	2.	2.	2.
Over 5 Years and under 10 Years.	3.	1.	1.	2.
Over 10 Years and under 15 Years.	1.	1.	1.	2.
Over 15 Years and under 20 Years.	4.	8.	2.	0.
Over 20 Years and under 25 Years.	4.	8.	0.	2.
Over 25 Years and under 35 Years.	2.	8.	3.	0.
Over 35 Years and under 45 Years.	7.	0.	0.	0.
Over 45 Years and under 55 Years.	4.	1.	0.	0.
Over 55 Years and under 65 Years.	3.	1.	0.	1.
Over 65 Years.	2.	1.	0.	0.
Totals.	30.	31.	9.	9.

TABLE V.

GROESWEN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Treated at the Old Isolation Hospital years 1897 to 1931 inclusive:-

Scarlet Fever	.....	1,325.	
Diphtheria	.....	1,692	
Typhoid Fever	.....	25	
		3,042	3,042
Add cases treated in Hospital from			
Margam District prior to Amalgamation			172
Grand Total			3,214

TABLE V (Continued).

Port Talbot Borough cases treated at Groeswen Isolation Hospital:-

Year.	Scarlet Fever	Proved Diph- theria	Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria	Erysip- elas	Menin- gitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Infantile Paralysis	Enteric Fever.
1933	134	26	2	9	0	0	0	0
1934	175	76	1	5	0	0	0	0
1935	53	23	1	3	0	0	0	0
1936	168	27	0	7	0	0	0	2
1937	181	21	1	0	0	0	0	2
1938	289	118	0	2	1	4	3	1
1939	55	140	1	2	2	3	1	0
1940	45	133	0	5	38	5	0	0
1941	38	64	1	1	26	0	0	0
1942	52	45	0	6	13	1	0	0
1943	94	154	0	1	7	0	0	0
1944	114	198	1	3	4	1	0	0
1945	90	86	0	3	3	4	0	0
1946	52	55	0	1	3	6	0	1

TABLE VI.

### CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946.

As recorded by the Registrar General:

		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
	All Causes .....	267	210
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever .....	0	0
4	Whooping Cough .....	0	3
5	Diphtheria .....	2	2
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ....	16	16
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	0	2
8	Syphilitic diseases .....	0	0
9	Influenza .....	4	7
10	Measles .....	0	0
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis .....	0	0
12	Acute Infantile Encephalitis .....	0	0
13	Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (male) uterus (female) .....	1	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	8	8
15	Cancer of breast .....	0	8
16	Cancer of all other sites .....	24	17
17	Diabetes .....	3	3
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....	23	21
19	Heart Disease .....	75	63
20	Other diseases of circulatory system .....	5	3
21	Bronchitis .....	23	9
22	Pneumonia .....	8	9
23	Other respiratory diseases .....	5	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	7	0
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years .....	1	1
26	Appendicitis .....	2	0
27	Other digestive diseases .....	7	4
28	Nephritis .....	11	10
29	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis .....	0	0
30	Other maternal causes .....	0	1
31	Premature Birth .....	3	2
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease .....	8	7
33	Suicide .....	2	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents .....	3	1
35	Other violent causes .....	8	1
36	All other causes .....	18	9



